

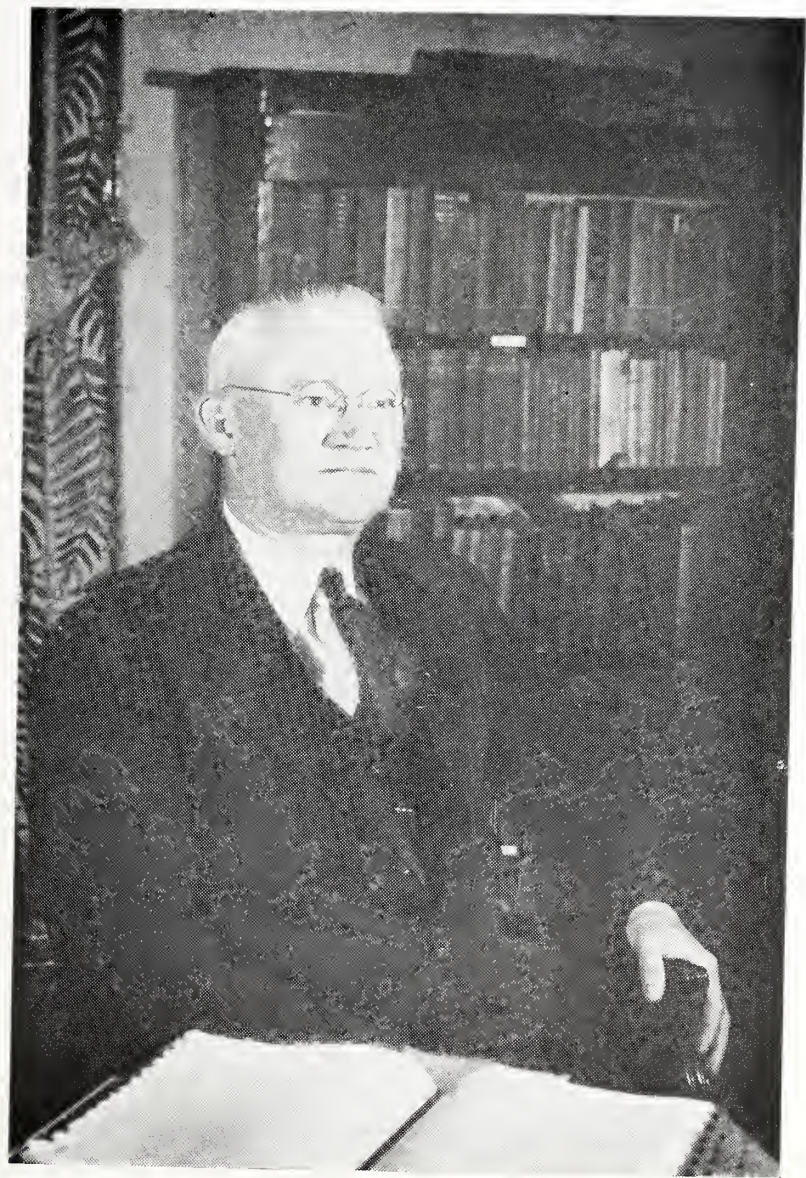
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*From Earth
to
Glory!*



May 26, 1946



REV. L. T. EDGERTON



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HISTORY OF Cross Roads Presbyterian Church

Cross Roads Presbyterian Church is located in Alamance County, which until the year 1849 formed a part of Orange County, and is situated five miles north of Mebane, N. C., State Highway leading out of Mebane to Roxboro.

The first church was a wooden structure located in a beautiful oak grove, south of the present cemetery, which is being used as the W. E. Stainback store. It is located near the present church.

The early records of the Cross Roads Church are extinct having been lost on their way to or from Presbytery between the years 1818-1820. All the early records of Orange Presbytery were lost in the house of Dr. Witherspoon, stated clerk of Presbytery then living in Hillsboro in the year 1827. It is impossible to fix the precise date of this church. In the manual of Orange Presbytery, it is fixed at 1792. However, this date is based upon a book of statistics made up by some unknown stated clerk.

The organization of the church was doubtless some years previous to this, as there is still on file in Hillsboro courthouse a deed in conveyance of land from James Morrow to William Morrow, Alex Anderson, Levi McAll, James Forest, elders. Dated March 6, 1790.

*The organization must have been some time previous to this conveyance, probably organized as early as 1783 or 1784 by Jacob Lake or John Debow, who was pastor of Hawfields at that time.

The first regular minister of whom we have any certain knowledge was the Reverend William Hodges under whom in 1792 the Hawfields and Cross Roads churches were grouped under one pastorate and continued until 1906, a period of 114 years.

The earliest church records of sessional meetings in our possession date back to 1820, showing a church membership of 240. From the early records and other sources we get interesting information.

The congregation is descended from an ancestry who came to this section from Pennsylvania and Maryland in the early settlement of this region. The first elders in Cross Roads church were James Mebane, William Bingham, William Mebane, William Murray, Thomas Pendergrast, William Gattis, Elijah Pickard, Peter Walker, John Forrest, George Faucette. Familiar names on the first records are, Barnhill (now spelled Barnwell), Ector, Cox, Gattis, Hall, Lynch, McAuley, Mitchell, Walker, Tate and Vincent.

The following is taken from Rev. William H. Foote. Sketches pp. 222, 228, 378-9. During the pastorate of Reverend D. Paisley.

"In August, 1801, a communion season was held at Cross Roads, in Orange County. The stated minister, William Paisley, was assisted by Rev. Dr. Caldwell and Leonard Pratcher, two young licentiates, Hugh Shaw

*From Rev. William H. Foote, Sketches pp. 226-374.

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and Ebenezer B. Currie. Nothing of special interest appeared in the congregation during the days preceding the Sabbath or during the administration of the ordinance. Great solemnity prevailed mingled with evident anxiety as well as prayer among Christians, that God would bless the congregation and revive His work. On Monday, the 28th, the public services were conducted by Messrs. Pratcher and Shaw without any expression or appearance of emotion among the people. The pastor arose to dismiss the people intending first to say a few words expressive of his sorrow that apparently no advance had been made in bringing sinners to God. Overwhelmed with his sensations of distress that God had imparted no blessing to His people, stood silent a few moments and then sat down. A solemn stillness pervaded the congregation. In a few moments he arose again: before he uttered a word a young man from Tennessee, who had been interested in the revival, and had been telling the people of Cross Roads, during the meeting, much about the state of things in the West, raised his hands and cried out, "Stand Still and See the Salvation of God." In a few moments the silence was broken by sobs, groans and cries, rising commingled from all parts of the house. All thoughts of dismissing the congregation at once vanished. The remainder of the day was spent in the exercise of prayer, exhortation, singing, personal conversation and midnight came before the congregation could be persuaded to go to their respective homes." Camp meetings grew out of this experience lasting many days and continued in Cross Roads in its original spirit, until 1854.

During the pastorate of Reverend Ezekiel B. Currie 1819-1842, the Cross Roads Sabbath School was organized. Reverend Anderson G. Hughes served the church 1843-1873. During his ministry he passed to his eternal reward having been stricken during the time of worship and died while in the pulpit. Reverend Calvin N. Morrow was pastor of Cross Roads Church 1873-1872. During Mr. Morrow's pastorate the brick church in which we are worshiping at the present time was built. The Building Committee: William J. Murray, Andrew Murray, James W. Lea, Robert A. Hodge, William P. Barnwell, James Anderson and William Walker.

Captain B. F. White and Andrew Murray were appointed to buy two acres for church building and ground. This ground was deeded from John C. Vincent and wife, Abeline, to Cross Roads Church, August 25, 1877, 2.2 acres were added to the land of the old church. Captain B. F. White and Calvin J. Richmond were added to the Building Committee. In 1776 Samuel J. Crawford was appointed on the Building Committee in place of Calvin J. Richmond and George C. Faucette in the place of James Anderson. The corner stone was laid in September, 1876 with Reverend Archibald Currie, of Graham, master of ceremonies. Brown Gordon was the architect and builder. The first worship and communion service was held in the new church June, 1877 although the walls were not plastered nor had the painting of the wood work been done. The church has a seating capacity of 600 persons. Having moved into the new church for worship, the old church, which seated about 325, was reserved to be used for a Session

House, and Academy. Later the old church was sold to J. W. Stainback and converted into the present store which is owned and operated by his son, W. E. Stainback.

1884-1889—Reverend Samuel H. Chester, Pastor.

1890-1891—Reverend G. W. Wilson, Pastor.

1891-1908—Reverend R. W. Culbertson, Pastor.

During Mr. Culbertson's pastorate, Cross Roads and Hawfields churches were separated and in 1906 Rev. R. W. Culbertson accepted the call to Cross Roads. Following this separation of the two churches the manse at Mebane was sold to Samuel G. Morgan for approximately \$3,500.

The present Cross Roads manse was built in 1906. Immediately steps were taken to group Stony Creek church with Cross Roads and the attempt was brought to a successful conclusion, which union was effective until 1929.

Reverend W. O. Sample was pastor 1908-1919. During his pastorate the Ladies' Aid was organized, with about seventeen members. The year, 1909.

1921-1925—Reverend W. P. Robertson was pastor.

During his pastorate the Young People's work was organized.

1926-1939—Reverend J. S. Jones was pastor.

During his pastorate, the year 1927, the Hut was built. March, 1929 Cross Roads and Stony Creek dissolved their union and Rev. J. S. Jones accepted the call to Cross Roads as full time pastor. Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, Orange County, being without a pastor and requesting the services of Rev. J. S. Jones, January 17, 1932. Permission was granted Mr. Jones by the Session of Cross Roads to supply Bethlehem church two Sunday afternoons each month.

Calls were extended Reverend L. T. Edgerton from the Cross Roads and Bethlehem churches and in November 1939, Mr. Edgerton became their pastor giving to Bethlehem the second and fourth Sunday afternoon services each month.

A feeling was expressed among some of the most faithful and loyal members of Cross Roads church that the time had come for her people to consider the spiritual welfare, of not only the present but the generations to come as the past generations had done so well. February 6, 1944 the above expressions were presented before the session and on March 5, 1944 the session called a congregational meeting for the purpose of electing a committee to be known as the Future Planning and Improvement Committee. The committee was appointed, consisting of the following: O. S. Sellars, Chairman; Mrs. Howard Cates; Mrs. J. H. Tate; Mrs. J. E. Sellars; W. O. Tate; C. J. Cates and C. A. Craddock. The Future Planning and Improvement Committee was charged with the responsibility of plan-

ning for the welfare of the church and those she will be called on to serve for generations to come. According to the records of the special building committee a report was presented to the congregation containing the following recommendations. First, the Hut be brick veneered and converted into a recreational building to be used by the church and community under the church's supervision. Second, that an educational building be built connecting to the church providing adequate space for worship and class instruction. Third, completely remodel the church auditorium having in mind its beauty, its comfort and its worshipfulness. The recommendations of the Committee were accepted by the congregation and efforts toward accomplishing those aims have already begun.

August 6, 1944 at a regular meeting of the session an organization was instituted to receive funds for the perpetuation of the Cross Roads Presbyterian Church, which funds to be received and invested, only the principal to be used for the perpetuation of Cross Roads Church. The officers are charged with the responsibility and administration of all funds. The organization is to be known as, "Cross Roads Living Endowment Fund," and the Living Endowment book bearing the names of each donor, of what ever amount, shall always remain in the possession of the stated clerk of the session. The charter members of the Cross Roads Living Endowment are Dr. W. N. Tate, Mrs. Bettie Maynard, Mrs. D. L. Boone, Mrs. W. N. Tate, Mrs. George Maynard, Miss Tessa Maynard and Andrew Maynard.

Cross Roads Presbyterian Church



